



To His Royal Highness
MONSEIGNEUR,
THE
DUKE
OF
ORLEANS.

The REMONSTRANCE of the States
of *Britanny.* With REMARKS.



[Price Four-pence.]

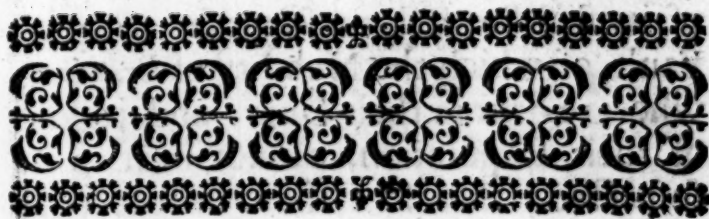
TO HIS
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Duke of ORLEANS,
 REGENT of
FRANCE.

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 With REMARKS.



L O N D O N :

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TO HIS
ROYAL HIGHNESS
The Duke of *Orleans*, &c.

MONSEIGNEUR,

WE the Under-written, who
are of the Estate of the No-
bles of *Brittany*, were so
sensibly griev'd by the Dis-
solution of the States at
the 4th Day of their Meet-
ing, that we cannot contain our Selves,
but presume to take the Liberty of dis-
covering it to your Royal Highness.

This severe and surprizing Shock;
which has no Precedent, neither since
the voluntary Union of this Province to
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the Crown, nor even under the Reigns of its first Sovereigns, supposes a capital Fault, of which the Nobility of *Britanny*, who are firm in their Duty, and jealous of their Reputation, cannot bear to be suspected; therefore they intreat your Royal Highness to permit them to wipe off an Aspersion so Infamous, and which wounds them in the most tender part, because it calls in question their Obedience and Loyalty.

'Tis true, Monseigneur, that on the 16th Instant, a free Gift was demanded of the States, on the part of the King, by Acclamation, or without Delay; that the Nobility, and the third Estate desired to adjourn to their Chambers, and that after mature Deliberation, they answer'd the Gentlemen, who were the King's Commissioners, with all the Respect due to those who represent his Majesty, by a solemn Deputation, that they could not grant the Free Gift without inquiring into the State of their Funds.

Tho' such an Enquiry cou'd serve only to shew the deplorable Extremity to which the Province is reduc'd, nevertheless the Two Estates would not have been thereby induc'd to refuse the Demand;

mand ; For a long time, Monseigneur, they have only consulted their Zeal, and not so much as measur'd it with their Ability, whenever it was necessary to give His Majesty a Proof of their Affection ; and every Member spoke aloud for granting the Gift of 2 Millions, but said we must re-establish our Finances, retrench superfluous Expences, and imitate the wise Conduct of that great Prince who governs us, by suppressing all the Abuses which have crept into the Administration of our Affairs.

The Nobility were willing to begin with themselves ; they sacrific'd both their Pensions, and the Gratuities given to ancient Gentlemen ; and also those Sums, the Disposal of which His Majesty was pleas'd to leave to the States, that no Part of what is rais'd upon the oppressed People might be converted to any other Use, but be all employ'd in making speedy Satisfaction to the King, though at the opening of the Assembly of the Estates 'tis usual to distribute 6000 Livres to the poor Nobility, whom the long Train of our Misfortunes has reduc'd to Beggary ; and whose Number is so great, that 'twou'd move Your
 Royal

Royal Highness's most tender Compassion to see them.

Five hundred Gentlemen who compose the Assembly, offer'd to advance this Sum out of their own Pockets, neither did they intend a Delay, or to spin out the Time to a great Length ; but began with naming the Commissioners appointed for their intended Enquiry, employ'd themselves in it from that very Day, and the Work was almost finish'd when the Order was declar'd to us in the King's Name for dissolving the States.

There is no other Remedy left now, Monseigneur, for the desponding Nobility, who have had the Misfortune to displease you ; which is the more afflicting to them, because there is not one Man of their Order, who is not ready to spend the last Drop of his Blood for the Service of the King, and Your Royal Highness, but to beseech you to give a favourable Attention to the Reasons of the 2 Estates, and to permit them to lay before You the hard and dismal Condition, to which the Province is reduc'd. Out of a profound Veneration for Your Royal Highness, we celebrated the Entrance of Your August Regency,
by

by a Gift of 3 Millions. The unavoidable Necessity they were put to, of having Recourse to borrow Money for it, did not hinder them ; being perswaded that a Prince who devoted himself with an indefatigable Application, and was animated by a superior Genius, to find out Methods to ease the State, was capable of helping them out of an Abyss into which they had voluntarily plung'd themselves. With this Confidence they made Regulations, and drew up Remonstrances, which were approved by a Contract pass'd with the King's Commissioners. The former were subverted by an Arret of Council, two Months after the breaking up of the States, and it appears by the Answers made to the others, that little Regard was shewn to them, because not only the Articles which concern his Majesty's Finances, but also those which could only tend to check the vexatious Proceedings of the Farmers, were not favourably answer'd.

The Two Estates, Monseigneur, in examining the Condition of their Funds, before granting the Free-Gift, propos'd to make a just and regular Plan, which is, a Method advantagious for the Province, and equally so for the King's Fi-
B
nances,

nances, to get Your Royal Highness's Approbation of it, and to beseech You to confirm it so firmly, that it may not be prejudic'd by the Arrets of Council, which ought not to be receiv'd in this Country, if Regard be had to its Privileges, a Piece of Justice which we ought to expect, from a Prince whose only Rule is Equity.

'Twas not for Want of Zeal that the same Acclamation, or immediate Consent, was not given now, as has been usual for several Years. This Custom was introduc'd in a Time of Plenty, when the Zeal of the Province, to shew the King that they were as ready to grant as he was to demand, prevail'd over the Custom constantly observed, after the Establishment of the Free-Gift, *viz.* not to grant it till the Close of the Assembly of the States, after all the Articles in Dispute between the King's Commissioners and the Province were adjusted.

May we presume to observe, Monseigneur, that the Term, Free-Gift, imports a Liberty to make Conditions, and that the Institution of the States, authorizes their Members to treat with the Commissioners, whom His Majesty appoints to hold the Assembly; always ob-
serving

serving the Subordination that is due from the Subject to the Sovereign.

The inexpressible Misery under which the Province groans, engages the States to take this Care ; for otherwise the People would not have had a breathing time, but must have been ready, with their usual Affection, to sacrifice the little Substance they have got, to the Relief of the State.

They are oppress'd by the doubling the Chimney-Tax, by compounding for a Capitation-Tax, which infinitely exceeds the general Tariffs of the rest of the Kingdom, and whose Deficiencies have involv'd us in a Debt of 5000000 of Livres, by the Decay of all manner of Commerce, and by the Scarcity of Specie, which always going out to furnish the Sums payable to the King, and never returning back again by the ordinary Canals, have generally exhausted it.

The Province owes 36000000 of Livres.

The Revenues of 1718 are already spent, and the Province must sink under the Weight of Interest for the Sums advanced, if an Expedient be not found to hinder the contracting of new Debts.

This, Monseigneur, is but a faint Sketch of the Miseries of this unhappy Province, to which must be imputed the Desire of the States to regulate it, and to find out Methods that are less burdensom for furnishing the Free-Gift to His Majesty.

Of all the Demands which the Province makes, the only one that can diminish the King's Finances, is, That He would be pleas'd to reduce the Capitation to 1400000 Livres, and though the Nobility be over-rated, they don't make this Proposal with a View to ease themselves, but to regulate the Diminution so as it may be for the Ease of the People of the Country, and in the Towns, who can no longer bear the Burden.

If Your Royal Highness please to grant this, we will make no particular Distinction for this Province, but only put it in a better Way of having the Tax adjusted ; and this Sum is only fix'd upon, to make it a certain Fund, of which His Majesty may be sure.

They dare believe, Monseigneur, that the other Articles of this Memorial, will not be refus'd, since they only relate to the Regulation of the particular Affairs of the Province. Permit the Nobility,
Mon-

Monseigneur, to open their Hearts to Your Royal Highness with that Confidence which Your Goodness and the Generosity of your Mind ought to inspire them with. You shall see nothing in us, but Sentiments of a most profound Veneration for Your August Person, and the highest Esteem for Your great Qualities, and of our most inviolable Fidelity to the King, and the State. The exhausting of this Province is a Proof of it, and it never refused to sacrifice it self for the Necessities of the Crown. It maintain'd at its own Expence 2 Regiments during the 2 last Wars, and besides the Officers of which they were compos'd, an infinite Number of Gentlemen did, and do still serve in them with Distinction. They flatter themselves, Monseigneur, that the Delay of some Days, contrary, indeed, to an abusive Custom, but conformable to their antient Privileges, will not make Your Royal Highness have the worse Opinion of a Nobility, which is so devoted to You; and towards whom You have declar'd You have a good Disposition. We wait the Effects thereof, Monseigneur, with all the Respect and Submission due to Your Royal Highness.

R E.



R E M A R K S.

THIS is the Remonſtrance ſo frequently mention'd in the News from *France*, and for which the Parliament or States of *Britanny* have been ſo much frown'd upon, and their Deputies ſo coldly receiv'd at the Court of *France*, where we don't yet hear they have receiv'd any favourable Answer.

'Tis not my Deſign to reflect on the Adminiſtration of the Duke Regent, who is known to be a Wiſe, as well as a Gallant Prince. It is his Unhappineſs to be placed at the Head of a Government, after ſo many Princes, who have for a long Courſe of Years rul'd that Nation with an Abſolute Sway, and as he is only a Truſtee for his Infant Sovereign, it is not in his Power to alter the Form of Government which has been ſo long continu'd, without the Concurrence of the three Eſtates, which have been ſwallow'd

low'd up by the Arbitrary Reigns of preceding Princes.

It affords however an useful Instruction to those Nations who are still possess'd of their Liberty, and may let 'em see what a valuable Thing it is, and that the preservation of it is well worth all it has or may cost them.

France, before the Reign of *Lewis XI*, was as free a Nation as any of its Neighbours. Their three Estates had as great Authority as our Parliament has now. Any one that will cast his Eye on *Hottoman's Franco Gallia*, lately translated into *English* by a noble Pen, will see this to be true. And as to this now miserable Province of *Brittany*, which was united to the Crown of *France*, in the Reign of *Francis I*. it appears by History to have been expressly provided for the Security of those People, that the *Bretons* should enjoy their own Laws and Customs, and that they might suffer no diminution, there was to be no Appeal from their Parliament to any Jurisdiction in *France*. The Nobility and Gentry of *Brittany* were to be promiscuously admitted to Dignities, Posts and Offices in the Kingdom of *France*, as well as the *French* themselves; That if any Imposts were
laid

laid upon their Commodities heavier than those of *France*, they should be taken off, and if they enjoy'd any particular Privileges in the Matter of Imposts, they should be left to them entire.

How well this Stipulation has been observ'd to them, appears by the Remonstrance above, nor are they the only Sufferers by an Union with that Crown, the Kingdom of *Navarre*, and the Countries of *Normandy*, *Maine*, *Dauphiny*, *Burgundy*, and *Provence*, have all the same Cause of Complaint, that instead of being better'd by that Union, it has totally subdu'd and enslav'd them.

These Things being very well known to every Reader of History, one wou'd wonder that a set of People shou'd be found in *Great-Britain*, so fond of a *French* Model of Government, that they have from Age to Age been courting it as the Divine Prerogative of Kings, and rather than not obtain it, would make a Sacrifice of their Lives and Fortunes, Rebel against our Lawful Sovereign and excellent Constitution, and heartily embrace Popery rather than miss of Slavery.

They bargain'd for it with *France* in the last Reign, and readily agreed to put
all

all the rest of *Europe* under Chains ; provided we might have our share of 'em. Since *Lewis XIV.* dy'd, they lavish'd Money out of the Bag to purchase the Slavery from *Sweden* which they could not obtain from *France* ; and now, rather than want it, they seem as ready to make a third Bargain with the *Turks*, or any body else that will help them to the Great Blessing of a King bred up in all the Maxims of the Romish Idolatry, and the most consummate Tyranny.

Let them cast their Eye upon this Remonstrance of their Neighbours, and if antient Histories may be credited, their Kinsmen the *Britons*, and then they may see a very lively Image of the Arbitrary Government, which they so much long for. At the same time it must be own'd, that if those *Britons* be descended from the antient Inhabitants of this Island, they have much more of a Spirit of Freedom and Liberty than our Tory *Britons*, and would be heartily glad to exchange Governments with them. That poor People made noble Stipulations for preserving their Liberty, as we have heard already, and now, tho' they have lost it, the remembrance of it is still valuable in their Account, and

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affords

affords them an unanswerable Plea for its Recovery. They have tasted too much of the bitterness of Slavery to be fond of it, and sigh and groan under the Oppression, which our Jacobite Faction have set up Couventicles to pray for, and rais'd Mobs and Rebellions to fight for.

This Consideration one would think should be sufficient of it self to cure them of their Frenzy, inspire them with Repentance, for endeavouring to destroy our excellent Constitution, and make them become loving and obedient Subjects to our excellent Sovereign King *GEORGE*, who was sent us by the immediate Hand of Heaven to preserve it.

They cannot surely have forgot how uneasie they were in the Reign of the late King *James*, for taking in their Elder Brethren the Papists to a share of Preferments in our Councils, Armies, Navies, and Universities ; and that when the Popish Priests begun to take Churches Tithe Pig by the Tail, they cry'd out so loud of the Churches Danger, that it was heard in *Holland*, and brought over King *WILLIAM* to the Churches Rescue. We remember then, that

that our High Church Bishops did heartily congratulate their glorious Deliverer, and joyn with others in praying him to take the Administration upon him; but their Goodness was like the Morning Cloud, and the early Dew, of a very short Duration, for they soon repented of the best Thing they ever did, became profess'd Enemy's to King *WILLIAM*'s Title, refus'd the Oaths to him as their Lawful Sovereign, and instead of being Glorious Confessors for Religion and Liberty, turn'd Captains to lead the People back to Egyptian Bondage and Idolatry.

These and the *De facto* Men, laid the Foundation of all the Disaffection and Rebellion, which has since pester'd the Nations; and those Principles which encourag'd the late King *James* to Tyrannize over the Bodies and Souls of his Subjects, are now again reviv'd and propagated by a set of Men, who boast of their sacred and indelible Character; with much more Industry than they preach the Truths of the Gospel, which ought to be their Chief Business, were they the Men that they would have others take them to be.

One wou'd hope that they will at last be convinc'd of their Errors and reform, and that the Clemency of the present Government should be an irresistible Motive to perswade them to it.

They ought also to consider how frequently Heaven has declar'd against their Principles and Practices, and that all the Efforts the Faction have made since the Reformation to reduce us again to a State of Popery and Slavery, have issued in the Ruin of the Promoters.

Let them ask their darling Brethren of *Sweden*, what Advantage they have reap'd from the High-Church Politicks, which their Clergy, educated by Pre-rogative Tutors at *Oxford*, &c. have brought among them. We believe, upon Inquiry, it will be found that the Seeds of Arbitrary Government, so industriously cultivated by those worthy Labourers in their Master's Vineyard, of Absolute Power, and Unlimited Non-Resistance, have produc'd a plentiful Harvest of Slavery and Poverty ; so that the poor *Goths* are forc'd to eat Bark of Trees instead of Bread, and to use Sea-Water for Salt, &c.

Must not these be comfortable Doctrines, and is not this a glorious Scheme
of

of Politicks, which has turn'd the antient *Gothick* Nobility and Gentry, into Hewers of Wood, and Drawers of Water? Have they not made a noble Exchange to become Tide-waiters and Excisemen, instead of Counts and Barons, or at best to wear their Prince's coarse military Livery, instead of superfine *Spanish* Cloth, and *French* Brocades; or to be admitted Farmers of those Estates, of which they were once Proprietors.

Certainly nothing but a judicial Infatuation from Heaven, can inspire Men with Principles so destructive to all that can make them happy in this World or the next.

Their oppressed Neighbours the *Britons* are taught the Falshood of these Doctrines, and the Inhumanity of such political Schemes, by their sad Experience; and instead of any Hopes to recover their antient Liberty which they so much feel the Want of; they must be content with booted Apostles, to teach them that they must not so much as make Use of Prayers and Tears to deprecate the inexpressible Misery they lie under.

I shall conclude with putting our High-Church Party in Remembrance, That Time was when King *James II.*
treated

treated even his petitioning Bishops as
 seditious Traytors. Let them then con-
 sider if the Chiefs of their Party were
 so used by the supposed Father, though
 they had brought him to the Throne ;
 what Treatment they are to expect from
 his pretended Son ; even though they
 should be able to do him the like Favour.
 And since none but Visionaries can en-
 tertain the least Hopes of succeeding in
 such a Design, they must be the arrant-
 est Fools in the World, that will venture
 their Lives and Estates in such a Quar-
 rel, as has ruin'd all that have enter'd
 into it for 30 Years past ; and if they
 should prevail, can expect no other
 Fruits from it, than such Slavery and Po-
 verty as the poor *Britons* do now com-
 plain of ; with the Addition of being
 either oblig'd to renounce the Protestant
 Religion, or burn at a Stake ; a Condi-
 tion as much worse than that which the
Britons can't bear, as the Loss of the Soul
 is greater than that of the Body.

F I N I S.